

NASNEWS



Newsheet of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

September 1991

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RECENT MEETINGS

The Society has had mixed fortunes in the attendances of its recent outings.

At the Stanwick Roman site on Thursday 4 July, approximately 50 members were given an interesting tour of the site by David Neall. Members were shown some of the recently discovered stone carvings. This is the last season of excavations at Stanwick. Any members who were unable to attend the site tour are strongly advised to visit the site before the end of September.

On 31 July our chairman, Dennis Jackson gave two dozen or so members a fascinating tour of the Iron Age hillfort at Borough Hill Daventry. The tour included two areas of the fort which, unlike Hunsbury Hill, are not normally accessible to the public. These were the B.B.C. wireless station and the private Daventry Golf Course. The latter contained the best preserved part of the Borough Hill site. Here the ramparts were very impressive and today appear just as daunting to the golfers whose fairway they cross as they did to any potential attackers in the Iron Age!

On Thursday 22 August only a handful of members turned up at Piddington Roman villa to have an interesting guided tour of the site by Roy Friendship-Taylor. Roy pointed out the spectacular discoveries from this well preserved site including an excellent example of a cellar.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Northampton Museum 22 September 2.00 p.m.

This is an in-house tour of the exhibition currently being held at the museum.

"Digging up the Past" is a new look at Northamptonshire's archaeology. Archaeological artefacts from all over the county will be on display, some are being shown for the first time in public!

The exhibition will also concentrate on two main aspects: collecting archaeological evidence and interpreting it. This includes aerial photography, fieldwalking and excavation. There will also be a section dealing with the early archaeologists in the county.

The exhibition runs from 23 August - 10 November 1991.

Friday 18 October 1991. 8.00 p.m.

Roy Friendship-Taylor "Piddington Roman Villa"

This is a joint meeting with Mid NAG and will be held at the Palmer Block, Glapthorn Road, Oundle.

Friday 25 October. 7.45 p.m.

Professor John Collis, of Sheffield University "The Auvergne Survey: Iron Age Towns to the Samian Industry" Upper Nene Archaeological Society. St. Giles Church Centre, Northampton.

OTHER EVENTS

7-8 September 1991 (Battle 8 September)

A large Medieval battle re-enactment will take place at Nassington. On Saturday 7 September there is a re-enactment of Medieval life whilst the actual battle itself takes place at the old Manor House site near the village centre. Admission is adults:£2.50, children:£1.12noon onwards

NEWS

Tony Gregory

It is with deep regret that we have learnt of the death of Tony Gregory on 26 June 1991.

Tony was one of our more famous members being both an outstanding Romano-British archaeologist and broadcaster.

Tony rose to prominence in Norfolk where he directed several important excavations in the 1970's and 1980's including the famous excavation at the Gallows Hill site at Thetford which was at first thought to be the site of Queen Boudicca's palace.

Tony was also heavily involved with broadcasting and fronted numerous archaeology programmes for Anglia T.V. At the time of his death he was working on a series for the B.B.C. entitled "Now When" which encouraged children to take a greater interest in archaeology.

New Treasurer

We still desperately need a new treasurer. The job is not too demanding. So come on, all you members out there, numeracy and a willingness to give up a bit of your time are all that's needed!

Anyone interested please contact any of the committee members listed on the front of this newsletter.

Subscriptions

As mentioned in the last newsletter these are being raised in order to cover the cost of the Journal which we hope to produce shortly.

The new rates: Individual £10, Family £12, Student £8, Institution £15. Those members who pay by means of Banker's order could they please inform their banks of the new rates.

Kirby Hall

Work recommenced at Kirby Hall in the middle of July. The work has concentrated in the area of the stone bridge in the south eastern corner of the site.

The results have been encouraging. It appears that the stone bridge is basically a sizeable dam which may have served as a means of containing the lake that existed to the west.

Previously people had thought that the large, ornate arches extant on the eastern side of the bridge were through arches, work here has now demonstrated that they were simply blind ornamental ones. Work has also shown that the bridge was constructed on top of an earlier trackway which appears to have been flooded when the lake was constructed. As well as this early trackway, excavation work has also uncovered the metalling on top of the bridge which may date back to the mid Seventeenth century. The metalling was in excellent condition, complete with fragments of Seventeenth century wine bottles and pottery!

Contributions

If you have any information you would like to see incorporated in the next issue, please send it to me or any other committee member.

Tim Sharman.